

COUNTY NEWS

State board may urge districts adopt 'character education'

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

"Character education" — a stark necessity in a nation where kids run wild? or a move toward church-run public schools? The State Board of Education will take a one-month breather before deciding Aug. 21 whether to urge local school boards to implement character and citizenship development.

"We're not promising a panacea," said Bob Smith, a Livonia Kiwanis member working with the Character Education Institute of San Antonio, Texas, an offering of character curriculum. "The overwhelming consensus is that values should be taught."

"These lessons should be taught in the home. But whether we like it or not, teachers are becoming surrogate parents," Smith told the State Board at its

July 24 meeting.

"Without guidelines," this resolution falls short," objected Wendy Wagonheim, Birmingham mother and lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Before you implement, assure there is a distinction between secular and religious values."

"Religious values should be transmitted in the home, church, synagogue or mosque. Without guidelines, this resolution, in its present form, opens the door to potential intrusion of religious values."

Karen Holmes, a Livonia PTA member representing the statewide PTA association, was worried that local school district committees might be stacked in favor of one religion. As drafted, the State Board resolution encourages local districts to form "collaborative partnerships among parents, educators, busi-

ness, religious and other community representatives" to select values.

"Include all religions, not just one," said Holmes. "We also need to make sure that they are not the majority of the committee but that it is balanced."

Outside the board meeting, board president Clark Durant, R-Grosse Pointe, took the opposite approach, saying the Bible and the story of Moses could be used to teach values. And if the ACLU doesn't like it, Durant said, "well, let them sue."

John Duerr, a Warren father of three, warned the resolution will open "a Pandora's box" and that "special interests are drooping" at the prospect of getting into character education. "And are you seriously considering making business a partner with parents?" he asked.

State Board member Barbara

Roberts Mason, D-Lansing, noted the resolution says schools should "reinforce parental values," suggesting the opposite: "Parents should reinforce what is taught in schools. I would hate for schools to reinforce a Militia parents' values."

Board member Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester, agreed. "There are, unfortunately for the schools, some children who are raising themselves."

Kiwanian Smith, a former advertising man, volunteered his support of a curriculum designed by teachers in Character Education Institute. It lists a dozen values, including honor, honesty, truthfulness, generosity, kindness, justice and respect for others.

Dr. Young Jay Mulkey, president of the institute, said it uses the tools of teaching critical thinking skills and building self-

esteem, teaching elementary kids to exercise self-discipline under peer pressure.

Christie Enstrom, principal of Kalamazoo's Northeast Elementary, warmly praised the program's results in that tough neighborhood. "We don't have fights any more," she said. Good behavior is reinforced through sending postcards of praise to the parents.

Detroit educator Yvonne Roberts said Character Education Institute's program "worked a change in the culture of the schools." About 15 of the 42 buildings under her wing have used the curriculum.

Beardmore noted the State Board would confine itself to recommending character education without endorsing a particular curriculum.

A memo by Art Ellis, superintendent of public instruction,

defines character education as "the process of educating children and young people about the common attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that parents and communities agree are important for their role as responsible citizens."

Educational literature, Ellis said, most often identifies these values: respect, responsibility, caring, trustworthiness, justice and fairness, and civic virtue and citizenship.

The State Board of Education meets at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, usually the third of the month, on the fourth floor of the John A. Hannah Building, on Allegan Street, two blocks west of the Capitol, Lansing. Public comment is heard at the beginning of each meeting. The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Public Advisory Committee On Judicial Candidates

An Independent Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE RATINGS

COURT OF APPEALS - 2ND DISTRICT

Mark J. Cavanagh - **QUALIFIED** The candidate failed to timely do one, some or all of the following: Complete Committee Questionnaire in full, release summary of candidate's Attorney Grievance Commission records, or medical information, be interviewed, or sign Committee's Waiver of Liability.

Mary A. Chrzanoski - **NOT RECOMMENDED** The candidate failed to timely do one, some or all of the following: Complete Committee Questionnaire in full, release summary of candidate's Attorney Grievance Commission records, or medical information, be interviewed, or sign Committee's Waiver of Liability.

E. Thomas Fitzgerald - **OUTSTANDING**

Henry William Saad - **OUTSTANDING**

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT - INCUMBENT POSITION

Steven N. Andrews - **OUTSTANDING**

Barry L. Howard - **OUTSTANDING**

Leslie Anne Logan - **QUALIFIED** The candidate failed to timely do one, some or all of the following: Complete Committee Questionnaire in full, release summary of candidate's Attorney Grievance Commission records, or medical information, be interviewed, or sign Committee's Waiver of Liability.

Fred M. Mester - **OUTSTANDING**

Rudy J. Nichols - **QUALIFIED, BUT NOT RECOMMENDED** The candidate failed to timely do one, some or all of the following: Complete Committee Questionnaire in full, release summary of candidate's Attorney Grievance Commission records, or medical information, be interviewed, or sign Committee's Waiver of Liability.

Gene Schmelz - **OUTSTANDING**

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT - NON-INCUMBENT POSITION

Carol Hackett Garagiola - **QUALIFIED**

Nanci Grant - **QUALIFIED**

45B DISTRICT COURT

Marvin F. Frankel - **OUTSTANDING**

Gil Whitney McRipley - **NOT RECOMMENDED** The candidate failed to timely do one, some or all of the following: Complete Committee Questionnaire in full, release summary of candidate's Attorney Grievance Commission records, or medical information, be interviewed, or sign Committee's Waiver of Liability.

48TH DISTRICT COURT

Thomas W. Brookover - **QUALIFIED**

Diane D'Agostini - **QUALIFIED**

52/2 DISTRICT COURT

Dana L. Fortinberry - **QUALIFIED, BUT NOT RECOMMENDED**

52/3 DISTRICT COURT

Lisa Asadoorian - **QUALIFIED**

Paul Bailey - **OUTSTANDING**

Steven A. Drakos - **NOT RECOMMENDED, INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE**

Paul Hynes - **OUTSTANDING**

Robert M. Justin - **QUALIFIED**

Michael B. Kilpatrick - **QUALIFIED**

Stephen J. Kirksey - **WELL QUALIFIED**

52/4 DISTRICT COURT

William E. Bolle - **OUTSTANDING**

WHAT THE RATINGS MEAN

1. **OUTSTANDING** (highest rating). To be rated Outstanding, a candidate must rank among the most highly qualified persons available for judicial service. A candidate must possess outstanding legal ability, sufficient experience, and appropriate demeanor and temperament, good health and a reputation for wisdom, intellect, insight and impartiality. Also to be taken into consideration is the candidate's participation in the civic, charitable, religious, or political activities of the community, or the work of the organized bar or other professional organizations.

2. **WELL QUALIFIED**. To be rated Well Qualified, a candidate must possess many of the same qualities necessary for the outstanding rating. This rating is intended for candidates who are clearly above average but who do not meet the rigid standards of the highest rating.

3. **QUALIFIED**. To be rated Qualified, a candidate must possess sufficient qualifications from among the factors considered to enable the Committee to safely recommend the candidate to the public.

4. **QUALIFIED, BUT NOT RECOMMENDED**. This rating is intended for the candidate who may meet sufficient objective criteria to be qualified by reason of legal ability and experience but who, in the judgment of the Committee, is not likely to be a good judge. This rating may be based upon unsatisfactory demeanor or reputation or any other finding which, in the judgment of the Committee, justifies the withholding of a favorable recommendation.

5. **NOT RECOMMENDED - INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE**. This rating is intended for candidates who might otherwise be qualified, but who, in the judgment of the Committee, have not had sufficient experience for judicial office.

6. **NOT RECOMMENDED**. To be rated Not Recommended, a candidate must be considered below average on an overall analysis of the factors set forth above. The "Not Recommended" rating indicates that a candidate is not recommended for the judicial office which a candidate seeks but the rating should in no way be construed as an adverse reflection on the candidate's qualifications as an attorney.

7. **NOT RECOMMENDED DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION**. This rating may be given to candidates who failed to fully participate in the evaluation process if, in the committee's considered opinion, it was not able, after attempting to obtain sufficient information for any other rating.

THE FOLLOWING RATINGS ARE LIMITED TO THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERED OPINION AS TO CANDIDATES' PRESENT SUITABILITY FOR THE JUDICIAL OFFICE SOUGHT AT THE TIME OF THIS EVALUATION ONLY. IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE COMMITTEE'S OPINION AS TO THE CANDIDATE'S SUITABILITY (1) FOR THIS OR ANY OTHER OFFICE AT ANY OTHER TIME, OR (2) AS AN ATTORNEY, OR (3) FOR ANY OTHER ENDEAVOR.

Susan Moiseev - **QUALIFIED**
John N. O'Brien - **WELL QUALIFIED**

Benjamin J. Friedman - **OUTSTANDING**

Kimberly Small - **QUALIFIED**
Robert S. Zawideh - **NOT RECOMMENDED - INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE**

Gerald E. McNally - **OUTSTANDING**

Richard A. Meier - **QUALIFIED**
John H. Murphy - **OUTSTANDING**
Julie Nicholson - **QUALIFIED**
Colleen O'Brien - **WELL QUALIFIED**
Jeffrey J. Quas - **WELL QUALIFIED**
William Staugard - **QUALIFIED, BUT NOT RECOMMENDED**

Glenn McCandliss - **NOT RECOMMENDED - INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE**